

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

---

THE PAMPA FOX OF THE BOGOTA SAVANNA.

BY GLOVER M. ALLEN.

---

The small dog-like foxes of the genus *Cerdocyon* are widespread in South America, chiefly at lower altitudes from Patagonia to northern Colombia. They are dwellers in sparsely wooded or savanna country and are nocturnal in habits. At present several races are recognized, all however rather similar in general coloration.

Through exchange with the Instituto de la Salle, at Bogotá, Colombia, the Museum of Comparative Zoology has lately received specimens from the high savanna of Bogotá (altitude 9000 feet), which indicate that the pampa fox of this area is a depauperate pallid race of the lowland *Cerdocyon thous* (Linné). It is well known that a number of other vertebrates of this lofty plateau show characteristic variations from their representatives in neighboring areas. Brother Nicéforo Maria in transmitting the specimens, pointed out that they differ markedly from *Cerdocyon apollinaris* Thomas (Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 9, vol. 1, p. 370, 1918) from the more wooded foothills not far to the eastward (type locality Choachi, 5400 feet altitude). For the type specimen of the latter had likewise passed through his hands and was noticeably different in its buffy suffusion throughout, as contrasted with the clear gray of the sides, belly, and feet of the alpine fox. The skulls show more important differences, particularly in the smaller size of the teeth in the latter, and the crowded condition of its upper premolars as a result of the shortened maxilla. It may be distinguished as

*Cerdocyon thous germanus*, subsp. nov.

*Cerdocyon thous* (subsp. indet.) J. A. Allen, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 35, p. 224, 1916.

*Type*.—Skin and skull 19850, Museum of Comparative Zoology, from the high savanna of Bogotá, Colombia, altitude 9000 feet.

*Description*.—General color of upper surface and sides dull gray. The short under fur is pale drab, darkening to a slaty base; the long over-hairs have whitish bases, succeeded by a black then by a white band, and tipped with black. In the dorsal area the two black rings, particularly the terminal one, are more extensive, producing an ill-defined median black stripe, more marked on the tail which is black above in its distal two-thirds and all around at the tip. At the sides of the body and tail the black rings are almost suppressed so that the long hairs are white with fine black tips, or often entirely white. The muzzle, sides of face, throat, and entire under surfaces, including inner side of legs and under side of tail, are whitish, very slightly darkened by the pale-drab under-fur. Chin dusky brown, backs of ears faintly washed with buffy at the base and having a pale brownish area in the center of their upper portion. In the type the feet are pale like the sides, except for the brownish soles of the hind feet, a brownish spot on the metapodials and at the bases of the toes. In a second specimen both fore and hind paws are darker, a grizzled dark brown.

*Skull*.—The skull of the type is that of an adult but not old animal, with the basal suture just closed, the temporal lyrate area clearly indicated, the parietals roughened for muscle attachment and the permanent dentition well in place but still unworn. Compared with skulls of *C. t. aquilus* (Bangs) from the Santa Marta region to the north, and of *C. t. brasiliensis* (Schinz) from eastern Brazil, that of the Bogotá animal is much smaller, with appreciably smaller teeth. The race *apollinaris*, though geographically not far distant, is described as having the teeth even more robust than those of its neighbors. In the Bogotá skulls the maxillary is absolutely shorter than in the forms mentioned so that a crowding of the premolars results. The first premolar is separated from the canine as usual by a distinct space, but is almost in contact with the second instead of being separated from it by a nearly equal space. The third premolar is even more crowded. In the type it is in contact posteriorly with the fourth, that of the left side is turned strongly inward from the tooth row to be overlapped by the second, while that of the right side is forced outward so as to overlap the second. In another slightly younger skull (M. C. Z. 19849) just acquiring the permanent dentition, both third premolars are forced inward and are overlapped by the second premolars. No such crowding occurs in the other described races. Additional evidence of the unfavorable conditions to which these animals are exposed is seen in the complete suppression of the small third lower molar in the type although in the second skull it can be seen in place but unerupted and partly roofed over by bone as if it were about to be entirely shut in and resorbed.

*Measurements*.—The skins are unaccompanied by measurements.

The skull of the type measures: condylobasal length 118 mm.; palatal length 59; occiput to front of incisors 125; front of upper canine to back of second molar 51; orbit to premaxillary suture at alveolar level 36; median length of nasals 40; width across upper incisors 15; width outside canines 21; width at outer corners of first upper molars 38; zygomatic width 66;

mastoid width 44; lower tooth row from front of canine to back of second molar 55.

*Remarks.*—In addition to the two specimens just mentioned, the Museum has a third, a young animal with milk dentition, in which as usually in *Canis*, the first premolar is not present. The American Museum of Natural History possesses a flat skin without skull from the same locality as well as two very young specimens from Fusugasugá, immediately to the south. The occurrence of the species here is taken to indicate that the savanna type of country is attractive to it even though climatic or other conditions are less favorable than those of the lowlands to the eastward where larger size and brighter tints are characteristic of the local races.